



Aleppo 4. X. 11.



Sehr geehrte und noch liebere Freunde,

I can offer no real excuse for delaying so long to write to you to report my safe arrival in Aleppo. I can only say that I have been so occupied that the days have slipped past one after the other.

All has gone very well indeed. I had a successful voyage during which I succeeded in reading much Caetani and in doing much writing. I made a very fair start with speaking Italian, and as to reading it, I found no difficulty with Caetani at all. I greatly enjoyed him. Since coming here I have done no reading at all, for all my time goes with visits etc. What spare time

I have had her gone in translating
the شيرة النوار into English. I have
come across Ghazzal's small
tract called التبديل الكبير, printed
in Halab. I will send you a
copy of it.

The introduction to Dr. Haman
effected everything that was
needed. He, in turn, passed
me on to a lady named Frau
Koch who knows everything
and everybody. She found
for a lodging with a Rumi-
Katholik priest who is very
congenial, and is teaching
me much about oriental
music. She also gave me
a good introduction to a

great shakh, the "member of parliament" for
Hleppo. From this point I have got right
into the circle of shakhs, and sit with them
hours on end, discussing, *Effendim*, لا مونيغ ما
في السموات السبع فوره الى ما ^{دون} القرقنت !

At first some of them were inclined to be
suspicious. They found it hard to "locate"
me, and asked more questions than I
enjoyed answering. Fortunately however their
suspicious took a wrong track, — they thought I
was a secret political agent !! But I
do not think they think so now.

There is very little Sufi'ism practised in
Hleppo. The only tarika I have found is a
taliyyah of the Wafaiyyah Darsishes. But they
are ignorant men, and I don't think their
Sufi'ism amounts to anything. They say there
is only one other Wafaiyyah taliyya, — in Egypt.
They seem to have forgotten their own ritual
and think of sending to Egypt to refresh
their memories ! The shakh of the taliyya

is hereditary. I saw the
present Sheikh today: He seemed
a most ordinary individual.
The dervishes are married, and
live with their families in the
tabiyya! It is really only a
settlement of a number of easy-
going individuals who live quite
gemutlich with their families
and play at the dhikr,
from which however they take
a holiday during three
summer months! Their
dhikr is

El Istighfar - 100 times: El tawhîd
100 times: "Allah" 400 times: "allah"
(standing) many times: "Allahuuma"....
"Hayy".... "Allah"....

The following books have been
recommended to me

Sadr el Din el Shirāzi - El Asfār el Arbāa
(Tehran)

Im el Zarrāk - El Kawā'id
(an abstract of Sufi'ism)

Im Abi Hariz - Sharh Nahj el
Balāgha

Mustafā el Hariri - Shikr el Aghni
wa tawhīd el Shāfi
(Comparing the Shikr's ancient
and modern)

Zawārif el Awārif . . . of Taftazani

- a book on Sufi'ism. Apparently
he began to practise Sufism at the
end of his life. This last is
a M.S. which I found in the
Takiya. I have not read in it

yet.



I send you a quotation of some
interest, a criticism of St Thaggali
by Jamal el Din el Jusi. Please
send it on to Professor Macdonald
and ask him to return to me.

I have no other copy.

I have not received anything from
you as yet, but I hope I shall soon hear
from you. I leave this next week and hope
to meet my family at Port Said about
Oct 24th. Please write to

Church Missionary Society
Sharia el Falaki
Cairo

I am always remembering you both and your
wonderful kindness. It was a truly wonderful month
I had at Zagazig. With love to you both from yours
W. H. T. Gairdner